

Message Text

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65-62

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 MC-02 ACDA-05 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00 /036 W

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R 170256Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5655

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, TH

SUBJECT: THAI GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN HAND GRENADE
PRODUCTION FACILITY

1. EARLY LAST YEAR, ASCAST CORPORATION, P.O. BOX 98, CREEK ROAD, DELA CO, NEW JERSEY 08075, WAS ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FORMER RTG AUTHORITIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THAILAND OF A HAND GRENADE PLANT. THE TALKS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DISCONTINUED WHEN SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE DETERMINED TO BE NOT FEASIBLE AND THE PROJECT WAS THEN SHELVED.

2. A LOCAL EX-BUSINESSMAN, MR. THAMMA (THOMAS) PINSUKHANCHANA, KNOWN TO THE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AS BEING RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE, HAS RECENTLY REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN REESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH ASCAST CORP., AGAIN WITH THE INTEREST OF FORMING A FACILITY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HAND GRENADES. THOMAS EXPLAINS THAT HE HAS GONE INTO POLITICS, IS A MEMBER OF THE INCUMBENT CHAT THAI PARTY, AND HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMARN ADIREKSARN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE SAID MINISTER PRAMARN HAD CHARGED HIM WITH REACTIVATING THE HAND GRENADE PRODUCTION PROJECT.

3. THOMAS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD CONTACT THE FIRM DIRECTLY, HE BELIEVED THAT CONTACT MADE THROUGH USG WOULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL IN CONVEYING TO ASCAST THE VALIDITY AND SINCERITY OF RTG INTEREST, ESPECIALLY SINCE ASCAST'S PREVIOUS CONTACT WITH THE RTG HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THROUGH THE WRONG CHANNELS. THOMAS INTIMATED THE "WRONG CHANNEL"

WAS A MIDDLEMAN UNSATISFACTORY TO THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT.
HOWEVER, HE WAS RELUCTANT TO ELABORATE.

4. IF APPROPRIATE, DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT ASCAST CORP.
AND ENCOURAGE THE COMPANY TO CONTACT MR. THAMMA PINSUKHANCHANA,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE,
BANGKOK, AND ADVISE EMBASSY OF ACTION TAKEN.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GRENADES, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750437-0930
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: MASS, BPRO, TH, US, ASCAST CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
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